

CARBON NEWS Issue 15



Welcome to 2017

Welcome to the first edition of the WANTFA Carbon Newsletter for 2017. We hope you have survived the latest weather and are looking forward to the sub-soil moisture that it brought. Tracking soil moisture has been made easier with the installation of both the DAFWA funded eConnected weather station network as well as the GRDC funded Yield Profit soil moisture sites. The data from these sites is updated several times an hour and is available online.

Keep an eye out for the upcoming WANTFA events, workshops and webinars. They will be advertised shortly.

Fifth Emissions Reduction Fund auction announced

Clean Energy Regulator

The Clean Energy Regulator will hold a fifth Emissions Reduction Fund auction on Wednesday 5 April 2017 and Thursday 6 April 2017.

With more than \$440 million remaining, the agency expects the competitive prices offered at previous auctions will continue.

Clean Energy Regulator Chair Chloe Munro said, "We still have plenty of money to commit and our objective to purchase lowest cost abatement has not changed."

"As we saw at the fourth auction in November last year, there is still a good volume of new abatement on offer and prices remain highly competitive.

"We recognise that the pace of new projects coming forward has steadied to a more sustainable level. We are comfortable with the trend to smaller auctions. Emissions Reduction Fund auctions are now business-as-usual and the market is responding accordingly."

We have also released the guidelines for the fifth auction. The format will remain unchanged on the previous auction with the Clean Energy Regulator retaining flexibility to choose the volume of abatement purchased – between 50 and 100 per cent on offer below the benchmark price.

"At the last auction, we accepted 98 per cent of the abatement on offer under the benchmark price. Market indications are that similarly competitively priced projects will come forward for the fifth auction," Ms Munro said.

To date, the Clean Energy Regulator has contracted 178 million tonnes of carbon abatement at an average price of \$11.83 per tonne.

The Clean Energy Regulator will release the results of the fifth auction within five business days of the auction window closing.

Fifth Emissions Reduction Fund auction timeline

Activity	Timeframe	Date
Project registration application deadline	30 business days before the auction	21 February 2017 (midnight AEDT)
Auction qualification application deadline	20 business days before the auction	7 March 2017 (midnight AEDT)
Auction registration application deadline	Five business days before the auction	29 March 2017 (midnight AEDT)
Closing time for declaration of eligible projects	Five business days before the auction	29 March 2017 (5pm AEDT)
Auction Window		9am 5 April 2017 to 5pm 6 April 2017 (AEST)
Results released, authorised bidder notified and average price per tonne of abatement published	By the end of five business days after auction close	13 April 2017



Incorporating organic matter alters soil greenhouse gas emissions and increases grain yield in a semi-arid climate

UWA

Increasing soil organic matter in WA soils has multiple benefits including building resilience with better water penetration, water holding and improving nutrient retention.

Improving the organic matter of soils however, increases methane and nitrous oxide emissions. However there are management practices that can be undertaken to build organic matter that aren't likely to generate substantial increases in emissions.

WA soils currently have very low greenhouse gas emissions when compared to other forms of agriculture across Australia and the world.

To read more click [HERE](#)



Direct evidence for microbial-derived soil organic matter formation

Nature Communications

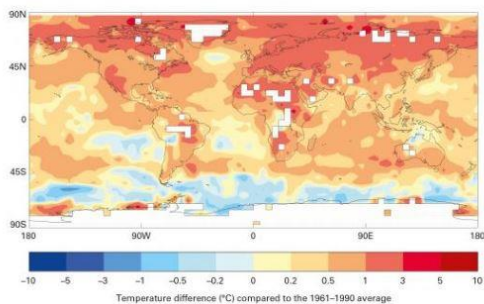
Recent research findings have been released showing a direct link to the creation of soil organic matter (SOM) and microbial activity within the soil. It was found that substrates within a soil are first consumed by the soil microbes before becoming stable SOM.

It was also found that different microbial communities created chemically different SOM.

To read more click [HERE](#)

The global climate 2011-2015: heat records and high impact weather

World Meteorological Organization



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released a detailed analysis of the global climate 2011-2015 – the hottest five-year period on record.

The new report, soon to be released, looks at the extent of world ice decline as well as how the extreme weather events are related to human activity.

To read more click [HERE](#)

Soil carbon: a Q&A with Gupta Vadakattu

Gupta Vadakattu is a Principle Research Scientist and has been working with CSIRO on soils research since the late 1980's.

This article is a simple-to-understand explanation of soil carbon, how it is formed and practices that you can undertake on your farm to help build your soil carbon levels.

To read more click [HERE](#)



Land Management and Farming Statistics from the ABS

Australian Bureau of Statistics



The ABS has recently released findings from the 2014-15 Rural Environment and Agricultural Commodities Survey (REACS). The results show that WA is leading the rest of Australia in using soil enhancers. There have been impressive increases in most of the categories the survey measures with the only declining practices being the addition of green manures and mulching.

To read more click [HERE](#)



Ripping innovations renovates root environment

GRDC

Dr Paul Blackwell, a recently retired Senior Research Officer with DAFWA is one of the leaders in the area of deep ripping.

In this article Dr Blackwell talks about the benefits and economics of deep ripping with top soil inclusion plates and how to set up some on farm test strips in multiple farm paddocks before undertaking a large whole farm program.

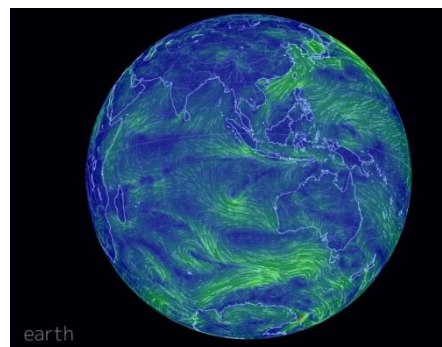
To read more click [HERE](#)

Global Wind Map

APOD

If you're into watching the weather then this is a map for you. This global wind map is updated 3 hourly from supercomputer forecasts drawn from global satellite data.

To read more click [HERE](#)



NFF policies on climate change have been updated



Meeting the demand for the 60% increase in global demand for food and fibre, while reducing the impact of agriculture on climate change, will create issues and opportunities for Australian farmers. The NFF have created policies on climate, emissions intensity and climate RD&E to add their voice to the national discussion on climate change

For more information click [HERE](#)



RESEARCH PROJECT

Carbon Farming



WANTFA Project: Carbon Farming

Visiting our [website](#) is a great way to learn about carbon farming, the Emissions Reduction Fund and find information relevant to WA.

The resources created by this project over the last two and a half years are all available on the website. This includes webinars on the life cycle analysis of farm inputs, livestock management to reduce GHG emissions and soil carbon in long term no-tillage systems, as well as fact sheets on carbon farming activities and the methods that are relevant to WA farmers. Past newsletters and WANTFA journal articles are also kept here.

If you are a farmer you can gain benefits by participating in carbon farming activities such as:

- Improved productivity*
- Efficiency gains*
- Better soil health and decreased salinity*
- More efficient water use*

Your local environment and community will benefit as well.

To read more click [HERE](#)

You can always follow us on Twitter: @WANTFA_Carbon and @WANTFA_farming

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